

AMENDMENT

In the claims:

Cancel claims 14 and 15 without prejudice.

REMARKS

Unity of invention, not restriction practice, is the applicable standard for examining international applications, such as this Application. Thus, according to 37 C.F.R. §1.499 (MPEP §1893.03(d): the examiner must (1) list the different groups of claims and (2) explain why each group lacks unity with each other group (i.e. why there is no single general inventive concept) specifically describing the unique special technical features in each group. No such explanation was set forth in the Office Action of June 8, 2001.

A group of inventions forms a single general inventive concept where there is a technical relationship among the inventions that involves at least one common or corresponding special technical feature (i.e. those technical features that define the contribution which each claimed invention, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art). The Applicant's single general inventive concept is the antiviral uses of leflunomide products. Further, the International Search Report made of record with this Application contained the International Preliminary Examination performed by Examiner Russell Travers. Examiner Travers searched all claims and asserted no lack of unity of invention.

To this end, Applicants hereby elect group I (claims 1-13), with traverse. Claims 1-13 are directed to methods of treating various viral infections with leflunomide products. Applicants respectfully request that the examination of group II (claim 14),

methods of screening for leflunomide product having antiviral activity be conducted at the same time as, for the foregoing reasons, there is a single general inventive concept.

Claim 15 has been cancelled in this U.S. prosecution as it is directed to a use of leflunomide product in preparation of a medicament.

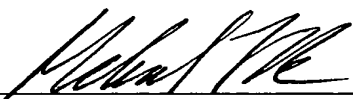
CONCLUSION

The foregoing claims are believed to be of a single general inventive concept and an early notice of allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN

By: _____



Michael F. Borun
Registration No. 25,447
6300 Sears Tower
233 S. Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606-6402
(312) 474-6300

July 31, 2001